

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 11, 1988

Published Since 1877

## Small Messianic congregations sprout in Israel

By Art Toalston

JERUSALEM (BP) — "I will never be a Christian," says a Jewish woman whose parents were killed by Nazis during World War II. "I believe the same thing as a real Christian believes." But to call myself a Christian, no. The word has been too contaminated for us as a people."

She is among some 3,000 Jews in Israel who believe the Messiah was revealed to mankind nearly two millennia ago. Most of them do not call him Jesus. They use his Hebrew name, Yeshua (pronounced ye-SHU-uh).

Numerous believers came to faith years ago — some after immigrating to Israel. Many more, however, are native Israelis in their 20s and 30s. Some can list parents, grandparents, or other relatives killed in the Holocaust, the Nazi campaign that eradicated 6 million Jews — one-third of all Jews worldwide. A few believers are concentration camp survivors.

About 30 Messianic congregations exist in Israel. Most have sprouted since 1980. Most are small; only a few encompass 100 or more believers.

Most are led by a small team of elders selected from the members. They usually meet in apartments or homes each Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. In Israel, Sunday is one of six workdays.

One-third of the congregations are in the Tel Aviv area, where 40 percent of Israel's 4.4 million people live. Several congregations meet in Jerusalem.

Southern Baptists have nearly 50 representatives in Israel, and several worship with Hebrew-speaking congregations. Others worship at Narkis Street Baptist Church in Jerusalem or Baptist Village near Tel Aviv. Both are English-language congregations also attended by internationals working or visiting in Israel. Still other Baptist representatives are active in nine Arab Baptist congregations.

Israel's population includes about 750,000 Arabs. An additional 1.5 million Arabs live in the West Bank and Gaza, territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War.

Jewish believers were even a smaller minority 10 years ago, reminds Ilan Zamir, an elder in a Tel Aviv congregation. When he accepted Yeshua as Messiah in the mid-1970s, "I thought I was the only Jew who dared to think this way."

It was an unmentionable topic in Israeli society and media. Believers were called traitors to the Jewish people.

Such pressures still confront believers. But now, Zamir and others dare to dream. "Lord willing," he says,

"you come in 10 years, I'm sure you'll see much greater numbers of believers and much greater evidence of the act of God in this land."

The Holocaust is an especially weighty matter for believers, because Orthodox Jews hold Christianity at least partly responsible. "Its preaching of anti-Jewishness was a very significant cause in . . . the most awful phenomenon in history against my people," says Pinhas Peli, a Jerusalem Post columnist and professor of Jewish thought and literature at Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Be'er Sheva.

Reformation leader Martin Luther, in his pamphlet, "The Jews and Their Lies," attacked Jews with "a venom that has rarely been equaled," says David Rosen, inter-religious affairs director for the Antif-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in Israel. Church history is stained with anti-Semitism, such as the Spanish Inquisition from the 15th to the 19th centuries and Russian pogroms, or attacks on Jews, in the late 1800s and early 1900s. And during the Holocaust churches failed to protest the atrocities.

"In the minds of most Jews," says Menahem Benhayim, an elder in a Jerusalem congregation, "Nazism was another phase of Christianity."

Benhayim, who also publishes a Hebrew-language Messianic periodical, Return, notes some Jews "recognize that Nazism was anti-Christian and pagan. But they believe that Nazism was able to use traditional church hostility toward the Jews to effect its diabolical aims."

Christianity is not inherently anti-Semitic, believers contend. "You can take any religion and annex it to hate," says David Yaniv, who lives in a kibbutz-like community in northern Israel. "Christians can hate, Jews can hate, Moslems can hate."

Messianic believers are striving to avoid sectarianism. There are no Baptist congregations, for example, although they baptize by immersion. And Messianic congregations have no affiliation with the U.S.-based Jews for Jesus organization.

Despite diverse convictions, Shulam reports, "All the believers in Israel, without exception in my opinion, see each other as brothers. We may disagree on the charismatic issue, we may disagree on premillennialism, we may disagree on the interpretation of any passage in the Bible, but we still have areas where we can cooperate without coercing each other."

Zamir and Benhayim are part of a Bible society team working on a Hebrew-language New Testament with explanatory notes. Shulam has organized a team to write a multi-volume New Testament commentary in Hebrew. Maoz is one of the editors of a theological journal, Mishkan, on Jewish evangelism. Stern's husband, David, is publishing an English-language New Testament using Jewish words and concepts.



FISHERS OF MEN — Unity and joy from Christ "living in our hearts" are cornerstones of Peniel congregation, says Shaul Zuela, left, one of the leaders of the Messianic fellowship in Tiberias that worships outdoors. Some 3,000 Jewish

believers in Israel hope their vibrant faith will draw fellow countrymen who, as Zuela puts it, "are thirsty and their heart is open for the righteousness of God." (BP) PHOTO BY Joanna Pinneo



HEARKENING TO JEHOVAH — A time to "Be still and know that I am God" begins the worship of Grace and Truth Assembly, one of 30 congregations in Israel of Jews who believe in Jesus. The Hebrew-language congregation has met each Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, in members' apartments in the Tel Aviv area for several years. (BP) PHOTO BY Joanna Pinneo



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## The Evangelism Conference

The 1983 Evangelism Conference had a little bit of everything, from the almost puppet-like movements of Manuel Scott and the non-stop pacing of John Bramlett to the quiet but appealing delivery of Frank Pollard and the urgent voice of Esther Burroughs.

It had presentations from Pollard's well-timed message to the hour and twenty-five minute delivery of Tom Elliff.

It had a woman on the program as a major speaker, maybe for the first time at the Mississippi Evangelism Conference. Esther Burroughs is the evangelism consultant for women for the Home Mission Board. She is the wife of musician Bob Burroughs.

And music was a major factor for the conference, as it always is. This year it was especially so with the presence of Russell Newport, the tenor soloist from Springfield, Mo. His vocal renditions leave one grasping for superlatives in description. He sang during each session, sometimes twice. In the five sessions there were at least 10 numbers.

On two occasions Newport used tapes for accompaniment, but for the most part he was accompanied by Irene Martin, Baptist Record staffer, at the piano. On the magnificent "Holy City," however, the accompaniment was by both the piano and the organ with Dot Pray at the latter instrument. It was a very dramatic and electrifying presentation. He also used both instruments on "The King Is Coming."

It is a musical treat indeed to hear Newport singing accompanied by these two ladies.

Another musical treat was in store with the presentations of the Alan Celoria family of Jackson. The five

children of the family joined their parents in the special music, and the result was delightful. They comprise a well-rehearsed, well-disciplined group.

We were treated to the renditions of two marvelous church choirs, Morrison Heights of Clinton and Parkway Church of Jackson, the host church. Graham Smith, the new director of the Church Music Department, was director of the Morrison Heights choir. Lew King directs the Parkway choir.

We were part of a poignant situation also as Smith directed his Morrison Heights choir for the last time and also made his official debut as Church Music director on his first day in his new position by leading congregational singing at the Evangelism Conference. He also performed special music.

Pollard was the only Mississippian who presented a full-blown message. He also was the only speaker who used the scripture assigned and stuck with the subject assigned. His subject was "The Ministry of the Laity" from II Cor. 3:1-5. Pollard said that years ago he made a dangerous decision. He had decided to believe the Word of God regardless. The result he said was that he no longer believes in ordination and he no longer believes in a laity. He pointed out that every Christian is a minister, that there is no distinction between the clergy and the laity. The laity, he maintained, has as much responsibility in witnessing as does the clergy. This spoke to the theme of the conference, "Equipping the Laity."

Perry Sanders, pastor of First Church, Lafayette, La., noted that as Israel travailed, she brought forth her children. "Only as the church travails

will the lost be saved," he said.

In a later message Sanders said he identified with the old time religion. It was a religion of the book, a religion of the blood, and a religion of the blessed hope, he noted. He concluded this message by singing softly, "Gimme that Old-Time Religion" and asking the audience to join him. The singing continued as he walked off the platform.

Scott, pastor of St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, spoke of good news. "Christ" he said. "was rich but became poor for our sakes. 'Ain't that good news?' he asked. He added, "Where the church is more stationary than missionary, the people perish."

Pete Pearson, pastor of Sardis Church in Smith County, told of using the Evangelism Department's plan book for revival and having an average attendance of 120 when worship average had been 40. There were 53 decisions including 18 professions of faith and two additions by letter.

Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, said he had a hard time believing that the day of starting new churches is over. There are two million added to our population every year, he said. "How many new churches do we need for this increase in population?"

The closing message was delivered by O. S. Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Other testimonies were delivered by Maurice Flowers, director of missions for Jones Association; Don Rhymes, minister of evangelism for First Church, Jackson; and Tommy Snyder, (Continued on page 6)

"Have we not all one father?  
hath not one God created us?"  
(Malachi 2:10)



Observe Race Relations Sunday  
February 14, 1988

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

## Sound gambling?

A hearing last week on proposed legislation concerning the docking of the casino ship, Europa Star, at Biloxi was held before a subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Gambling is illegal in Mississippi and gambling equipment found in Mississippi establishments is usually confiscated and destroyed. Thus far, the Europa Star has escaped such a fate, though it rests at anchor every day at a dock at Biloxi's Cadet Point. The Star goes out to waters three miles from the beach along Highway 90 and three miles inside of the bar-

rier islands and opens up its casino equipment for gambling. Its officials claim that those are territorial waters.

Yet the officials are seeking legislation to permit the Europa Star to do what it is doing already. In other words, according to its own officials, what the Europa Star is doing now is illegal. Yet the state has taken no steps to halt the process.

As subcommittee chairman Sonny Merideth pointed out to the owners, if the action is legal, there is no legislation needed. Yet the owners declared that they wanted the legislation passed. The bill is H 413. It must pass the subcommittee as its first step to success. Members of the House Ways and Means Committee are Thomas H. Walman (chairman), Leslie D. King (vice chairman), Don Alford, D. R. Anderson, Harris L. Bryan, Credell Calhoun, J. P. Compretta, Kane Ditto, Tyrone Ellis, Alvin C. Endt, Hillman T. Frazier, Isiah Fredericks, Don Grist, Bruce J. Hanson, Aaron E. Henry, Ashley Hines, Tommy Horne, Edward G. Jackson, Wm. Harold Jones, Billy D. Lancaster, Hubert S. McMillan, H. L. (Sonny) Merideth Jr., Bobby Moak, W. G. Poindexter, John Reeves, Thomas U. Reynolds, Frances Savage, James C. Simpson, Dewayne Thomas, Gus Townsend, Mack Lloyd Wadkins, Charles V. Williams, and Charles L. Young.

A number of Gulf Coast pastors were on hand to testify at the hearing. Bobby Perry, director of missions, was among them but was sick and didn't go in the committee room. Others were Dean Register, First,

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued on page 6)

## Guest opinion . . .

## Status quo — the mess we are in

By Grady C. Cothen

Consider the situation the Southern Baptist Convention finds itself in during the year of our Lord, 1988. It is immediately evident that corporately and individually, most of us do not have our minds on the principal business of the Lord. The agencies are in a state of unparalleled confusion and paralysis. Every meeting of most of them is approached with great anxiety and frequently caucuses are called to plan the political agenda. It is obvious to the world that most of the confusion is over the usual Baptist argument — who's going to run this show?

Every program of missions and evangelism — the reasons the convention was organized — is slowed or hindered. Those programs of missions or education that are doing their jobs are doing so under the greatest of

stress and amid disorder among the trustees. Every meeting of the convention is carried on in a state of emergency, not in the work but in who is in control.

The controversy has spread to many of the state conventions and their auxiliary boards and institutions. Organizations have been formed to change everything and protect everything. The associations are joining the act and disfellowshipping churches for reasons that if carried to the logical conclusion would dismiss many churches in most associations, since in many of them there is some event, practice, or belief that would disqualify according to somebody.

All this and a lot more has been brought about by a group which wants to save the denomination from the liberals! It brings to mind the ancient

physician who drained all the blood from the patient to cleanse the body. We seem to be learning our policies from the writer who told of the man who discovered that you can roast a pig by burning down the house.

The changing of the guard in Baptist causes has produced no significant change in truly theological matters. It has produced no significant progress in the Lord's work. It has produced confusion, heightened tension, the harassing of chief executive officers to the point of despair, and division in almost all boards of trustees. It has brought paralysis of the work on many fronts and slow down everywhere. Brother has been set against brother and friend against friend. Fear to speak because of vindictive punishment, real or threatened, is the order of the day for many.

We are beginning to see the slowdown or disintegration of various parts of the cause of Christ, and the half is not yet.

The changing of the guard has produced some results. We now have one person who is said to be drawing up a computerized list of acceptable pastors for one state. Convention leaders are reported to be calling the search committees of most, if not all, prominent churches recommending a pastor from the group acceptable to the leadership. No one can be named to the trustees of the various convention organizations who is not acceptable to a small group. The Executive Committee now functions under the shadow of accusation, innuendo, and power politics. Rumor has it that a motion will be introduced at the next

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued on page 6)

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## Scott: in revival, can pass out blessing

By Tim Nicholas

Perry Sanders, opening speaker for the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference, told participants that he believes the biggest problem in the Southern Baptist Convention is a lack of a "passion for souls."

Sanders, pastor of First Church, Lafayette, La., was one of seven principal speakers for the annual meeting which assembles an audience primarily of ministers. The meeting this year was at Parkway Church, Jackson. It drew up to 1,000.

Sanders told of others who demonstrated a passion for souls — Moses, Nehemiah, Martin Luther, Charles Finney, Jonathan Edwards, and Billy Graham. He said that the Bible says that "they that sow in tears shall reap in joy." He added, "I don't see many tears."

He said for the spiritual kingdom to flourish, there needs to be "not only blood-stained Calvary, but tear-stained cheeks."

Manuel Scott, pastor of St. Johns Missionary Church, Dallas, told of attending revival sessions with 10 or 12 or 14 choirs "just to make up the attendance," and which become musical extravaganzas.

In one of the few messages of the conference where preachers stuck to

the assigned topic, Scott spoke on the text "where there is no vision, the people perish," and noted that revivals are "loaded with possibilities."

Scott said that if a person "can't pick up a blessing, you can pass one out." He added that at a revival, "some wife might not give up her husband, parents might not give up their children, a friendship might be sustained, it's possible that somebody might be self-extended... get healed." And he said the greatest possibility of all is that somebody might get saved.

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, said that "to most every cry of people of God, the answer is his people." He cited the examples of Moses, Joshua, Samuel. He said that there are people living within a few hundred yards of First Church, are children "whose only role model is a teenage gang member." Pollard noted the needs all around — people needing help with food, clothing, shelter. He said that God is saying, "People of Mississippi Baptist churches, come here, you are the answer."

Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., spoke directly (Continued on page 4)

## Two-day convention will mark WMU centennial

"The Best Part" is the theme of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union's annual meeting, March 14-15.



The two-day celebration, to be held at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, will feature foreign and home missionaries, both current and retired.

A special theme interpretation will begin each of the four sessions. Led by Edwina Robinson, retired executive secretary, Mississippi WMU, these messages will highlight the sessions. Additional program participants will include Mrs. Marjorie McCullough, president, WMU, SBC, and Alma Hunt, retired executive secretary, WMU, SBC.

Jim Futral, president, Mississippi Baptist Convention, will be featured, as will home missionaries Dottie Williamson of Virginia, and Edie Polnac of Idaho.

Musicians for the sessions will be Karen Hardy, Clinton, director; Mrs. Mary Simmons, New Orleans, organist; and Mrs. Dot Pray, Jackson,



Fancher



Williamson



Robinson



Hunt

pianist. Other soloists and singing groups also will be participating.

"Meet the Missionary" opportunities will be available for GAs and Acteens as part of the Monday evening session. A gigantic birthday party will conclude that particular session. Baptist Young Women and members of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship will have a banquet at 5:30 p.m. Monday.

Prayer breakfasts with missionaries will be offered on Tuesday morning. Pre-registration will be necessary for these breakfasts. Parents of Mississippi missionaries will be special guests at the Tuesday morning session.

Tuesday afternoon will spotlight

new state WMU officers and area leaders, outgoing Executive Board members, church and associational Centennial chairmen, and churches and associations reaching distinguished recognition on the WMU Achievement Guide during 1986-87. Dresses from any period during WMU's 100 year history will be appropriate.

State WMU President, Mrs. James Fancher, will preside over all the sessions.

A mailout containing lists of motels, restaurants and program details has been sent to church and associational WMU directors. For additional information, contact the WMU office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## Religious Education Association to hear Dickson, Freeman at Biloxi

"Our Challenge... Communication!" is the theme for the 42nd annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Religious Association. The meeting will be held at the Biloxi Hilton Hotel on Feb. 18-20. Elaine Dickson, president, Corporate Transitions, Brentwood, Tenn., will headline the program. She is a recognized leader in the area of group dynamics, communication, and organization. Banquet speaker for the Friday night banquet will be Roger Freeman, pastor, First Church, New Orleans.

Other program leaders include James Reed, associate professor of religious education, New Orleans Seminary, who will lead Bible study sessions. Several state ministers of education will lead skill development conferences: Gary Shows, First, McComb; Bill Crider, First, Hattiesburg; Julius Thompson, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; James Webster, Hinds-Madison Association; Farrell Blankenship, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Richard Davis, Temple, Hattiesburg; Keith Williams, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Bonnie Donald, First, Picayune; Randy Tompkins,



Dickson



Freeman

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Ted Taylor, First, Starkville; Don Wilson, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Cortez Hutchinson, First, Yazoo City.

Special conferences will be led by Macklyn Hubbell, Family Ministry Professor at NOBTS.

The Mississippi Baptist Religious Education promotes fellowship and professional development among its members. Membership is open to staff members of Mississippi Baptist churches who have responsibilities in educational areas. This includes general education, youth, preschool, children's education and other support areas. Membership is also open to students of religious education in

Baptist colleges, directors of missions, denominational leaders, and other interested in promoting the work of education in the churches.

Reservations may be made by contacting the Biloxi Hilton Hotel. The conference officially begins at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 18. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 18 with some recreation options. These include sightseeing, a golf tournament, tour of mission sights, and other recreation. Contact Jan Cossitt in the WMU office for participation in the recreation program.

Officers for MBREA include Keith Wilkinson, president; Jan Cossitt, vice president; Dionne Williams, secretary; and Don Wilson, president-elect.

"We encourage churches to make it possible for their educational staff members to attend this conference. The sharing of ideas, training provided, and the opportunity to grow and develop spiritually, makes this meeting one of the most important for educational ministers," stated Keith Wilkinson, president. "We hope churches will provide for the expenses of their staff members to attend."

## Computer equipment will go to Gulfshore, Central Hills

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee meeting in Jackson last week approved a job description for a director of missions for the New Choctaw Association, upped car allowances for traveling staff from \$250 to \$275 per month, and agreed to purchase computer equipment for Gulfshore and Central Hills.

The newly-worked out agreement among the convention board, the Home Mission Board, and the New Choctaw Association calls for a person who will administer the work of

the association and serve as consultant to the Choctaw Indian churches. The director of missions will be a convention board staffer responsible also to the associational personnel committee.

The computer equipment includes an expenditure of up to \$20,810 for Central Hills and up to \$41,980 for Gulfshore.

The committee also approved spending \$1,420 to be added to insurance coverage to replace wind damaged roofing at the Copiah-Lincoln BSU Center.

## Reagan is invited to address SBC meet

By Dan Martin

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — President Ronald Reagan has been invited to address messengers to the 1988 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention here June 14-16.

The invitation has been issued by SBC President Adrian P. Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., but the White House is not expected to respond for several months. If Reagan does accept the invitation, he is scheduled to speak at noon Thursday, June 16.

The last time a sitting president spoke to the convention was in 1976 in Norfolk, Va. Then-President Gerald R. Ford addressed messengers. In 1982, Vice President George Bush addressed the annual meeting of the

SBC Pastors' Conference in New Orleans.

Thomas D. Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., and chairman of the SBC Order of Business Committee, said the seven-member committee "felt it would be quite appropriate for the president of the United States to address the convention."

The theme of the convention is "Pour Out Revival" and emphasizes a call for revival, Elliff said. He added he thinks it is "appropriate that we hear the president and that he hear a statement calling for revival by the

(Continued on page 4)



# Can pass out blessing



## Executive Committee, Bi-racial Commission

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Bi-Racial Commission was elected on Jan. 28. The Commission serves as the administrative umbrella under which National and Southern Baptists sponsor and support the Mississippi Baptist Seminary, Baptist Student Union activities on Mississippi's historically black college campuses, scholarship aid to church related vocational students, and church development conferences. From left are Richard Brogan, president of the

Mississippi Baptist Seminary and executive director of the Commission; C. F. Jordan of Jackson, treasurer; Earnest Sadler of Wiggins; Jessie Redmond of Jackson; C. J. Duckworth of Taylorsville, vice-chairman; Paul W. Stevens of Jackson, chairman; W. P. Davis of Jackson, president emeritus; Hickman M. Johnson, dean of the seminary; and not pictured is Gus Merritt of Decatur.

## Reagan invited to speak at SBC

(Continued from page 3)

largest evangelical group in America."

He added: "There is not the slightest political intention in our invitation. If there is a good time for an incumbent president to speak to us, it is during his last year in office. He is not running for re-election, and enough time separates the election from the convention that it is not political in nature."

"We are not trying to develop a theme that addresses anything politically oriented. We believe all of us can identify with the need for revival. There is no attempt on the part of the committee to make a statement other than a statement about our responsibility before God to seek revival."

Four 20-minute theme interpretations will explore the topic of revival.

Speakers each have been assigned a different aspect for their messages. Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, will speak on "Pour Out Revival in My Heart"; Ruffin Snow, pastor of Eastwood Church, Tulsa, will speak on "Pour Out Revival in My Home"; O. Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Church, Houston, will speak on "Pour Out Revival on the Household of Faith"; and Bobby Welch, pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, will speak on "Pour Out Revival on My Homeland."

The committee "wanted men to speak who represent a broad spectrum of Southern Baptist life but who also, by personal experience, can speak with some authority on the issues. We feel these men embody in their lifestyles the subjects they have

been assigned," Elliff said.

In keeping with the theme, Elliff said, a prayer room will be maintained in the Henry Gonzales Convention Center during the times the convention is in session.

Another highlight of the convention will be the evening session Wednesday, June 15, during which the Foreign Mission Board will conduct a commissioning service for new missionaries. The service will end with an invitation and altar call, Elliff said.

Other items of the three-day meeting include an address by SBC President Rogers and the convention sermon by Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth.

Elliff said "about the same amount of time" as in previous conventions has been allotted for the business of

the convention, which includes this year the election of a president to succeed Rogers, who has served two terms and cannot be re-elected this year. Messengers also will elect other officers, act on recommendations from the SBC Executive Committee, deal with the report of the Committee on Nominations, and act on the various motions and resolutions which are presented.

"We have spent an unusual amount of time in carefully trying to provide a beautiful balance between worship and business. We know the basic purpose of the convention is to do business, but we know there is a statement we should make to the nation about where our heart is, and we have addressed that in our call for revival."

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

## Scotchie McCall's widow dies at 92

Mrs. Margie Parks McCall, 92, formerly of Jackson, died Feb. 4, 1988, in Jacksonville, Fla. Services were held 11 a.m., Monday, Feb. 8, at Baldwin-Enochs Funeral Home in Pearl, Miss., with burial in Cedar Lawn Cemetery, Jackson.

A native of Kilmichael, Mrs. McCall had lived in Jackson before moving to

Jacksonville. She was a graduate of the University of Mississippi where her family later moved. She lived in several cities, in addition to Jackson, where her husband, the late D. A. "Scotchie" McCall, had been pastor. He was former executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## W. E. Kennedy, pastor, dies

William Ernest Kennedy, 75, died Feb. 5, 1988, in Magee General Hospital. Services were Feb. 6 at Colonial Funeral Home of Magee.

He was pastor of churches in Simpson, Smith, and Scott counties for 31 years and was a member of Zion Hill Church in Mize.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Rachel Robinson Tew Kennedy, great-grandchildren.

daughters, Mrs. Bobby G. (Annell) Hamilton of Pearl, Mrs. John (Ernestine) Huggins and Mrs. Billy R. (Mamie) Atkinson, both of Morton, and Mrs. Barbara Barefield of Mendenhall; sons, Billy Ray Kennedy of Decatur and James Ershel Kennedy of Magee; one brother; six sister; 26 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

(Continued from page 3)

to preachers asking if they trust God enough to thank him for something in their lives that they will never completely understand. And he suggested they be content with the "circumference" of their lives. He said one must consider where he is not as a stepping stone, but as if God had placed him there for the rest of his life.

On another message, Elliff told the preachers that it is interesting how little preaching there is on "Jesus' blood, the price of true salvation." He told them if they were saved after they were baptized, then they needed to get baptized again or else "Jesus is not your lord."

O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Ft. Lauderdale, told the group that "looking at the cross brings confusion, looking through the cross brings confidence, and looking beyond the cross brings comfort and clarity." He also spoke on the elements of evangelistic preaching with ten "Ps." Such proclamation he said ought to be prophetic, plain, positive, personal, penetrating, persuasive, pointed,

pious, persistent, and productive.

John Bramlett, an evangelist from Memphis, gave animated talks pacing from one side of the podium to the other. He told of the various types of people he had hated before he became a Christian and how those hatreds died.

And Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, talked about the 167-million unchurched Americans, saying that when Jesus told the disciples to share the gospel with every creature, "there was no division of labor — the mandate falls on every born-again child of God" to share that Good News.

"A diamond is a chunk of coal that made good under pressure."

— CLASSIC CROSSWORD PUZZLES

"Conscience is a small inner voice that doesn't speak your language."

— MERIT CROSSWORD PUZZLES PLUS

"Freedom is nothing else but a chance to be better."

— ALBERT CAMUS

## Senior Adult Rallies

Senior Adults, their leaders, pastors, staff members

FEB. 22

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
J. Clark Hensley and J. Barry Worrell — Resource persons  
"Finding a Better Way" Lunch \$3.00  
Reservations by February 18 through Barry Worrell at Emmanuel

MARCH 21

First Baptist Church, Vicksburg Noon - 2:30 p.m.  
Cortez Hutchinson and Ethel McKeithen Resource persons  
Theme "Choosing a Better Way." Sack lunch

MARCH 29

Clarke College, Newton 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Reservations for lunch \$4.00 should be made by Monday, March 28 through Dean's Office, 683-2061.  
W. Levon Moore and J. Clark Hensley, resource persons  
Theme, "New Dimensions for Senior Adults"

APRIL 5

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Reservations for lunch by preregistering with W. Levon Moore, P. O. Box 246, Kosciusko, 39090 or phone 289-6059.  
J. Clark Hensley and W. Levon Moore, resource persons  
Theme, "New Dimensions for Senior Adults"

APRIL 20

Meadow Grove, Brandon 10:00 a.m.  
Ethel McKeithen and Cortez Hutchinson, resource persons  
Golden Agers' Meeting with Meadow Grove as host.

APRIL 29

First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
For Areas VII, VIII and IX — Horace Kerr, Farrell Blankenship and J. Clark Hensley, resource persons  
Theme "Achieving Wholeness in Later Life."  
Coordinators: Billy G. Johnson, Hattiesburg; Bob Williams, Gautier; Tom Myers, Prentiss; and Glen T. Williams, McComb.  
Contact Billy G. Johnson, Route 9, Box 1814, Hattiesburg, MS 39401, phone 583-9392.

MAY 5

Sherman Baptist Church 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Northeast Mississippi — Co-hosted by Lee Baptist Association with Charles Stubblefield and J. Clark Hensley, resource persons  
Theme "New Dimensions for Senior Adults"  
Registration fee of \$2.00 includes lunch. Make reservations for lunch through William P. Smith, P. O. Box 133, Tupelo 38802 or phone 842-8164 by Tuesday May 25th.

JUNE 13

Northwest Association Training Center near Hernando  
Hosted by First Baptist, Hernando and Northwest Association.  
Contact person, Ervin Brown, P. O. Box 381, Hernando 38632.  
Aaron Lewis is Area Coordinator  
J. Clark Hensley and Cortez Hutchinson are resource persons.





## Concord establishes scholarship

Concord Church, Booneville, has established a scholarship at Blue Mountain College. It is a memorial scholarship for Gerald Mauney, a young man who gave his life in the Vietnam War. His parents requested that the fund be a living endowment specifically for students committed to full-time Christian service. Just before entering the military, Mauney had answered God's call to full time Christian service. The first scholarship recipient is Tony Morrow, second from left, a senior from Ripley, majoring in social science. From left are, William G. Dowdy, Concord pastor; Morrow; T. C. Mauney, father of Gerald Mauney; E. Harold Fisher, BMC president; James Travis, professor of biblical studies.

## Poplar Springs Drive marks pastor's 15th anniversary

Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian recently honored Mr. and Mrs. James A. Ruffin on the occasion of their fifteenth anniversary as pastor and wife. The church held a reception in their honor and presented the couple with a commemorative plaque, along with a love offering check



Ruffin

to be used for a vacation trip. Ruffin formerly was pastor of First Church, Okolona; Como Church (Panola); Pilgrim's Rest (Panola); and Liberty Church, DeLeon, Tex.

The couple has two children, Ginny, a social worker at the Mississippi

Baptist Medical Center; and Al, employee of the Shelby Star Newspaper, Shelby, N.C.

Ruffin has served the Mississippi Baptist Convention in a number of capacities, including the Convention Board and its Executive Committee, Chairman of Personnel Committee, Committee on Committees, Nominating Committee, trustee of Clarke College, trustee of Mississippi Baptist Seminary, and chairman of Missions and Evangelism Committee.

He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary.

In Lauderdale Association, he has been moderator, president of Pastor's Conference, and chairman of many committees.

# Changes are proposed in bylaws of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union

Listed below are proposed changes, as recommended by the state Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board, to be made at the WMU annual meeting, March 14-15.

Bylaws of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union state: "The bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote at any annual meeting provided that the proposed amendment has been published in two issues of the Baptist Record at least one month before the WMU Convention and has also been submitted in writing to the Executive Board at its last semi-annual meeting. Such proposed amendment must be presented on the first day of the annual WMU meeting, action on same being deferred until a subsequent session."

### Article III — Relationships

New bylaws — Section 3. Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, recognizing the autonomy of area associational and church Woman's Missionary Union organizations, shall cooperate on each level to achieve unity of purpose and collective action.

Old bylaws — Section 3. Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, recognizing the autonomy of district associational and church Woman's Missionary Union organizations, shall cooperate on each level to achieve unity of purpose and collective action.

### Article V — Officers

New bylaws — Section 1. The officers shall be a president and a secretary/historian. (Rest of section 1 unchanged.)

Old bylaws — Section 1. The officers shall be president, vice-president, recording secretary and associate recording secretary.

### Article VI — Nominations and Elections

New bylaws — Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the area coordinators.

Old bylaws — Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the district directors.

New bylaws — Section 2. At the annual meeting the secretary/historian shall call a meeting of the Nominating Committee for organization, at which time a chairman, a co-chairman and a secretary shall be elected.

Old bylaws — Section 2. At the annual meeting the recording secretary shall call a meeting of the Nominating Committee for organization, at which time a chairman, a co-chairman and a secretary shall be elected.

New bylaws — Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall elect the following nominees each year: president and secretary/historian.

Old bylaws — Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall elect the following nominees each year: president, vice-president, recording secretary, and associate recording secretary.

### Article VIII — The Executive Board

New bylaws — Section 1. The membership of the Executive Board shall be the officers, area coordinators, associate area coordinators and ten members-at-large. The tenure of office for area coordinators and associate area coordinators shall not exceed five successive one-year terms. One year shall elapse before one would be eligible for election to the board except as an officer. The

tenure of office of members-at-large shall be one, two or three year terms. One year shall elapse before one would be eligible for election to the previously held office. Area coordinators, associate area coordinators and members-at-large shall be elected at the annual meeting. The term of office shall begin at the final adjournment of the annual meeting. The officers and executive director-treasurer of the Union shall hold like positions on the Executive Board. The professional staff shall be ex-officio members without vote.

Old bylaws — Section 1. The membership of the Executive Board shall be the officers, district directors and district associate directors, whose tenure of office shall not exceed five years, and one year shall elapse before one would be eligible for election to the previously held office. The president, vice-president, executive director-treasurer, recording secretary and associate recording secretary of the Union shall hold like positions on the Executive Board. The professional staff shall be ex-officio members without vote.

New bylaws — add Section 10. Should a vacancy occur in an area office, the area nominating committee shall present to the executive director-treasurer or president a nominee who will be elected by polling the Executive Board. Should a member-at-large be unable to complete her term, the president in conference with the executive director-treasurer shall select a nominee who will be elected by polling the Executive Board.

Old bylaws contains no Section 10.

## Gulfshore is seeking employees for summer

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly is accepting applications for employment for the 1988 summer staff, according to Frank Simmons, Assembly Manager.

College age applicants who are interested are encouraged to consider this avenue of ministry and service. The assembly begins its summer program on May 15, and continues through Aug. 15.

Available positions include food services, Red Cross trained lifeguards, housekeeping, registration and office, first aid, and grounds and maintenance.

The assembly provides a program of activities for the staff; and they have the opportunity for service as well as personal spiritual growth and development.

Interested college age students are invited to meet with Simmons Feb. 22-March 2 on various college campuses across Mississippi, where he will be interviewing prospective employees. The recruiting schedule is as follows:

Monday (Feb. 22): MS Delta Jr. College BSU Center, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.;

Delta State BSU Center, 3 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday (Feb. 23): Northwest MS Jr. College BSU Center, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.; Ole Miss, First Baptist Church Oxford, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.; Northeast MS Jr. College BSU Center, 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday (Feb. 24): Mississippi State BSU Center, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thursday (Feb. 25): Mississippi College BSU Office, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Monday (Feb. 29): East Central Jr. College BSU Office, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Clarke College Cafeteria, 2:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Tuesday (Mar. 1): USM BSU Center, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday (Mar. 2): Jones Jr. College BSU Center, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

For additional information about an interview, contact Frank Simmons at Gulfshore or the BSU director on the college campus in your respective area or the state.

For a staff application and other information write to Summer Employment, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

## SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS CONFERENCE



Meet and Hear  
**DR. CHARLES LOWERY**  
Director of the Christian Counseling Center  
First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas

February 14-17

**DR. CHARLES LOWERY**, a competent counselor with a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of South Carolina, is Southern Baptists' answer to James Dobson. He is in constant demand as a speaker for churches, conferences, seminars, and conventions. He is the Sunday night preacher at First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, the largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention.

**MUSICIANS R.L. AND BETH SIGREST** will be singing at each service. From their hometown of Yazoo City, Mississippi, these dynamic singers have travelled throughout the United States, presenting concerts and revivals in over 500 churches. They have appeared on such programs as the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and have released five albums.

## MORRISON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH Clinton, Mississippi

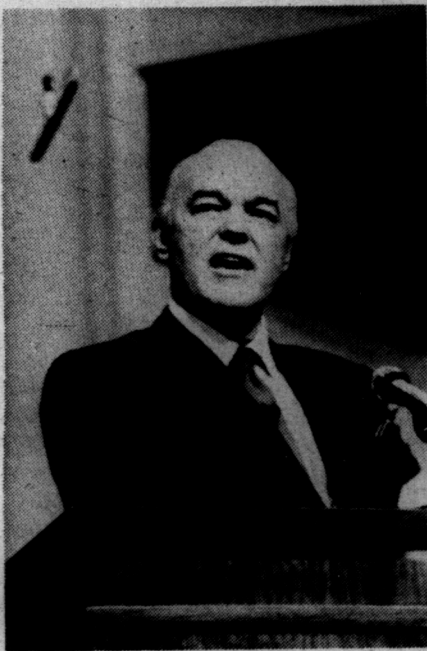
Sunday Morning services at 8:30 & 11:00  
Services at 7:00 nightly (Sunday through Wednesday)

*Don't miss a single service! You and your family will be helped!*

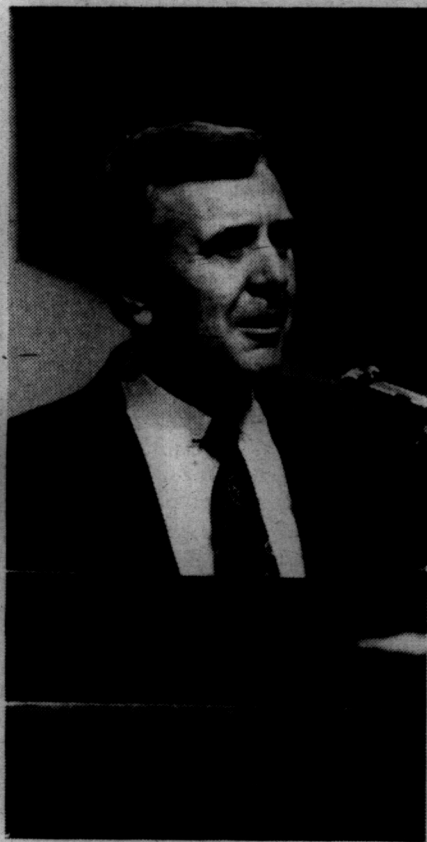


# Evangelism Conference

Story on page 3.  
Editorial on page 2.  
More photos next week.



Perry Sanders



Frank Pollard



Sanctuary Choir, Morriston Heights, Clinton, led by Graham Smith.



Graham Smith



Manuel Scott



John Bramlett



Dot Pray, Russell Newport, Irene Martin

## Sound gambling? . . .

(Continued from page 2.)  
Gulfport; Frank Gunn, First, Biloxi; and Nathan Barber, First, Bay St. Louis.

Also present and testifying were Jim Futral, Broadmoor, Jackson, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and Gerald Harris, Colonial Heights, Jackson, first vice-president of the convention; and Sam Creel, Crossview, Brandon.

Also testifying was Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

A bill introduced last week would

permit pari-mutuel gambling on jai alai in Mississippi. It is H 521 introduced by Rep. Daniel D. Guice of Ocean Springs. This bill also has been assigned to the Ways and Means Committee.

These are bills about which Mississippi Baptists need to contact their legislators. Those who have legislators who are members of the House Ways and Means Committee should do so immediately. Supposing that someone else will take care of it will not get the job done. We all need to be heard.

## Status quo — the mess we are in

(Continued from page 2.)  
meeting — it has been done before — to prohibit anyone not a member of the committee from speaking. This would eliminate all the state executive directors, editors, agency executives, and all us ordinary Baptists. If this motion passes, it will destroy the basis for long range cooperation between the state conventions and the SBC. The implications of silencing the people who make the programs go are horrendous. If those behind these moves understand what they are doing, they aren't Baptists. If not, they ought not to be where they are.

The educational accrediting agencies are beginning to look askance at SBC schools on a national and state

basis. People are beginning to change their wills to eliminate SBC institutions. Students are quietly departing some of the schools looking for a place not only of academic freedom but a place where education is the agenda. Some of our younger intellectuals, and not a few older ones, are looking around for a place to serve where Baptist polity is a reality and not a much abused shibboleth. We who used to be leaders of the Baptist world are now its shame. One international leader said recently, "Southern Baptists are the laughing stock of the Christian world — destroying themselves over who believes the Bible the most!"

Those who are committed to saving

us from ourselves had best hurry or there isn't going to be much to save. A better solution occurs to me: repentance on the part of us all, and a total surrender of the processes of the denomination to the Lord and those of his servants who have no agenda of their own. It is sobering to remember, however, that no major denomination having started on the course we now follow has reversed itself. All have struggled toward meaninglessness and impotency, steadily declining until over most has been inscribed the fateful "Ichabod." It can happen here.

Grady Cothen of Pass Christian is the retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

## The Evangelism Conference

(Continued from page 2.)  
pastor of Calvary Church, Greenville. Other special music was presented by Jay and Martha Richardson of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Guy Henderson, director of the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; was in charge of the conference. He was assisted in presiding at the sessions by Jon Doler, pastor of First Church, Raleigh, and chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board evangelism committee; and Chester Vaughn, program director for the board.

An unscheduled appearance was made by Dean Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport. Register asked for the help of Baptists all over the state in providing opposition to the continuing presence on the Gulf Coast of the casino ship, the Europa Star.

The Evangelism Conference ended at noon on Wednesday, and several Gulf Coast pastors were back in Jackson early Thursday morning to attend and testify at a hearing on legislation concerning the Europa Star by a subcommittee on the House Ways and Means Committee.





Front Row: Deron Meilstrup, Devin Meilstrup, Jennifer Glaze, Joel Glaze, Seth Glaze, Donnis Green.

Second Row: Sherrie Meilstrup, Dennis Meilstrup, Gloria Marler Glaze, David Glaze, Rebekah Carter, Marie Carter, Emily Green, Neil Green, Al Green, Karen Massey, Ariel Massey.

Third Row: Margie Mines, Don Mines, Rick Carter, John

Richard Carter, Nedra Carter, Debi Smith, Hope Martin, Greg Massey, Gil Massey.

Fourth Row: Mark Alexander, Cecile Alexander, Steve Mines, Lisa Bowers, Roger Bowers, Jessica Bowers, Mary Bowers, William Bowers, Justin Martin, Asbury Martin, Adrian Martin, Ricky Massey.

## Mississippians get together at Argentine mission meet

During the recent meeting of the Argentine Baptist Mission, ten of eleven families who have ties to Mississippi got together for a photo.

Mark and Cecile Alexander were appointed in March, 1956. Cecile was born in Corinth, and both were graduated from Mississippi College. Mark served with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as volunteer coordinator in 1982. At present, they serve in Mar del Plata as church planters.

Roger and Mary Bowers were appointed in 1986. Roger served as pastor of Harmony Baptist Church, Picayune, where daughter Lisa was born. They are serving as associational promoter of one of the associations in the city of Buenos Aires.

Rick and Nedra Carter were appointed in 1986, to serve as professors of music at International Seminary in Buenos Aires. All three children were born in Lexington. They have served in FBC, Houston; Second, Kosciusko; FBC, Carthage, and FBC, Durant. Rick also served as a choral and vocal instructor at Holmes Jr. College.

David and Gloria Glaze were graduated from Mississippi College and were appointed in 1982 to serve in the Mass Media Department of the Argentine Baptist Convention. Gloria is a Tylertown native. Their sons were

born in Jackson. David helped organize and pastor the Spanish Baptist Mission of Broadmoor, Jackson, and also served as pastor of the Spanish Baptist Church, Shelby.

Al and Emily Green were appointed in 1984, on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Al was born in Laurel. Emily, although born in N.J., claims Iuka as home. Both children were born in Hattiesburg. Al pastored the following churches: Cambridge, Gautier; Temple, Petal; and Olivet, Gulfport. The Greens serve as associational promoters in the Entre Rios Association.

Asbury and Hope Martin were appointed in 1986. Hope, a graduate of Delta State, was born in Corinth. Their youngest son was born in Cleveland. Asbury is a graduate of Blue Mountain. They have served churches in Clarksdale, Jonestown, Dundee, and Cleveland. They were appointed to begin a Baptist work in the city of Casilda.

Greg and Karen Massey and their entire family were born in Mississippi: Greg and Ricky in Meridian, Karen in Laurel, and Gil and Ariel in Grenada. Greg served in Emmanuel, Grenada, and Fifteenth Avenue, Meridian. He was also music clinician for the music department, Mississippi Baptist Convention; Karen served as Associational Baptist Young Women Director, Grenada Association; finan-

cial secretary, First, Grenada; and drama clinician for the Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention. They were appointed in 1986, for music and worship development in La Plata, Argentina.

Dennis and Sherrie Meilstrup are graduates of Mississippi College. They were appointed in 1985 as music promoters of the Mar del Plata Association. Sherrie is a native of Meridian and their son Deron was born in Hattiesburg. They served in churches in Rolling Fork, Flora, and Petal.

Don and Margie Mines were appointed in 1964. Although not natives of Mississippi Don served with the Mississippi Convention Board as partnership coordinator in 1984-85. At present, the Mineses serve in the north zone of Buenos Aires.

Debi Smith is a journeyman appointed April 5, 1986 to serve two years as a school teacher in a Baptist private school in Buenos Aires. Debi is a graduate of Hattiesburg Blair H.S. and the University of Southern Mississippi. She will complete her term of service in 1988.

Steve and Vidonia Smith (not pictured) were appointed Oct. 10, 1985 to serve in the San Juan Association. Steve was pastor of the Central Church, McNeil, and the Wellman Church, Brookhaven.

## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

### To my Valentine

Dear Valentine,

I love you because you love me and accept me as myself, however I look from day to day, or in whatever mood I may be. And no matter how many pounds I gain, you still send me a Valentine and address it "to my little sweetheart." Through the ups and downs of 32 years of marriage, my love for you has grown. The highlight of my day is coming home to you.

I love you when you are kind and forgiving, even after I've been petty and fussy.

I love you because I feel free to tell you everything or anything.

I love you because I trust you and believe that you trust me.

I miss you when you're not with me, and I know you miss me; yet you understand why I want to travel, and I can be assured that you'll be waiting for me at the airport when I get home.

I love you when you go somewhere with me, in spite of the fact that you really don't want to go, but you go to please me, and just "want to hurry up and get it over with."

I love you when we come home from a vacation and you say, "Of all the places in the world, this is the best."

I do things for you sometimes that I don't want to do, and I know you do the same for me.

I love you because you put up with my being late.

I love you when you bait my fish



hook and take my fish off the line in that resigned way, as if to say "She'll never learn!"

I love you because you are willing to help, to fix anything that's broken, or in the chores around the house. And I love you when you say, "Let's just have cornbread and milk for supper."

I love to laugh with you, and to have you hold my hand when you know that I am sad.

I love you means I'll take you to the emergency room when you have the flu and stay until your name is called even if we have to wait all day.

I love you means to think back over the years I've known you and to realize how empty they would have been without you.

Happy Valentine's Day!

### Devotional

#### Celebrate love . . . marriage partners

By John L. Walker

One wife expressed her love for her husband this way, "You are the greatest thing that has happened to me, other than salvation in Christ." Now that's putting marriage in the rightful place.



Walker

We have just studied in the book of Malachi that the wife is identified as "the wife of your youth," "companion," and "the wife of thy covenant." Marriage is a relationship that should be cherished and a love that should be celebrated.

The Bible says, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; . . . so ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself . . . nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence (respect) her husband" (Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33).

In the love chapter of the Bible, I Corinthians 13, genuine love is described. "It is slow to lose patience. It looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive. It is not anxious to impress. It does not cherish inflated ideas of its own importance. It has good manners. It does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It does not keep account of evil. It doesn't gloat over the wickedness of others. It is glad with all godly men when truth prevails. It knows no limit to its forbearance. It knows no end to its trust. It knows no fading of its hope. It has unlimited endurance" (Paraphrased from Basic Youth Conflict.) These fifteen characteristics of love help us to understand love worth celebrating.

A little anniversary poem given to my wife and me several years ago tells a great truth about the love marriage partners experience.

We promised our love we would treasure

That day when we two were made one:

I thought I knew joy beyond measure

But gladness had only begun:

For love is not told by a token

Nor proven by the vows that we say,

'Tis deeper than words that are spoken,

Your thoughtful care proves it each day.

Let's build our marriages on the love that will help us stay sweethearts forever, on the love that will help us celebrate until, by death, we are separated.

John L. Walker is pastor, First, Lucedale.

## Book Reviews

Authoritative biographical reference works came into popular usage in this country with the publication of the first edition of *Who's Who in America* in 1899. Since that time biographical directories have been compiled in nearly every major field.

Of particular interest to Mississippi Baptists is *Mississippi Baptist Convention Ministers*, recently published by the Convention's Historical Commission. Compiled by Jack Gunn, executive secretary of the commission, this impressive work includes biographical sketches of more than 800 ministers currently serving in Mississippi Baptist churches.

Following an appropriate introduction by Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board, the text of this work consists of concise biographical sketches in alphabetical order. Unlike many biographical directories, including the renowned *Who's Who* series, the size of this volume is conveniently manageable; and the print is easily read.

Church librarians among others will welcome this new source of valuable biographical material. For years to come, church historians will find it useful in identifying former pastors and recording their activities. The extensive listing of family names will certainly be of interest to genealogists.

Until this publication, no biographical directory of this type had been compiled since 1895, when

L. S. Foster published *Mississippi Baptist Preachers*, a notable collection of approximately 400 denominational leaders. In his preface to the current compilation, Gunn states that the Historical Commission hopes to provide biographical information on thousands of Baptist ministers who have served in the state since 1895. *Mississippi Baptist Convention Ministers: Current Biographies* marks an excellent beginning of this monumental work.

Copies of *Mississippi Baptist Convention Ministers* are available from the Baptist Book Store in Jackson for \$15.95. — Reviewed by J. B. Howell, librarian, Mississippi College.



# capsules

## WMU leaders won't keep silent always

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Don't expect Woman's Missionary Union leaders to remain silent in the convention controversy if state leaders follow the example and admonition of their national executive.

In an address to the national WMU executive board, Carolyn Weatherford called WMU leaders to "speak boldly" and "pray boldly." But she also cautioned them to pray for discernment in knowing when to speak.

"I ask you to join me in two things. Speak boldly when the need arises. And prepare your women to speak boldly and to understand something of the need," Weatherford said.

Also, "pray boldly," she urged. "Pray daily for the Lord to lead us out of the swamp of the convention controversy, for his glory."

## Southeastern prexy search continues

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Instead of narrowing the list of candidates to succeed W. Randall Lolley as president of Southeastern Seminary, the trustee presidential search committee announced Jan. 22 it has expanded its list of candidates to 24 and extended the nomination deadline until early February.

## Stress management to be seminar topic

NEW ORLEANS — A "Managing Stress in Ministry Conference" will be held at New Orleans Seminary from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 29.

Terry Peck, consultant for the Career Support Section of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will lead the conference designed to help pastors and church staff persons face special personal hazards such as loneliness, family life stress, fish-bowl existence, self-worth, and personal identity.

Cost is \$20. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126, or call (504) 282-4455.

## Jacksonville ACTS raises \$44,565

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — ACTS of Jacksonville raised \$44,565 in gifts and pledges in a Jan. 16 telethon, which after expenses will net an estimated \$27,652 for use by the group in producing programs for its local cable TV channel.

It was the first telethon ever for the ACTS network or one of its cable TV affiliates.

## Chaplains will meet; theme: "Who Touched Me?"

NEW ORLEANS — There will be a conference for chaplains Tuesday and Wednesday, March 1-2, at New Orleans Seminary.

The annual conference, sponsored by the Home Mission Board, will be centered around the theme "Who

Touched Me?" Topics to be covered include "What Is Health in Ministry?" "A Discerning Spirit — Primary Ingredient;" "Dealing Redemptively with Unhealthy Church Members — and Staying Healthy;" "Balancing the Total Life;" "Coping with Anger and Authority;" "Overcoming Stress and Burnout;" and "A Practical Plan for Good Health."

## Moral, economic persuasion helped

TUPELO — The American Family Association says the decision by AT&T to stop billing for "dial-a-porn" companies is a positive step that could deal a serious blow to the billion dollar a year business.

AFA executive director Donald E. Wildmon says that AFA had been trying to get AT&T to stop the billing service for several months, with much correspondence and communication between AT&T and AFA, but without any success. On Dec. 14 Wildmon wrote AT&T chairman James Olson asking that AT&T get out of the porn business, and promised that AFA would begin a massive effort to get AT&T customers to switch to other long-distance carriers if AT&T did not do so by Jan. 15.

"We became convinced that AT&T would not get out of the dial-a-porn business unless it was going to cost them more money than it brought in. Moral persuasion, combined with economic persuasion, proved effective," Wildmon said.

Wildmon said that AT&T notified him on January 5 that they planned to petition the FCC for permission to stop billing for dial-a-porn companies.

The United Methodist minister said he was hopeful that regional phone companies would also join AT&T in dropping their billing, and that AFA would not pursue any further action encouraging customers to switch from AT&T.

## Blood purification may help AIDS work

DALLAS (BP) — Researchers at Baylor University Medical Center here, have developed a method of purifying donated blood that someday could protect the nation's blood supply from the deadly AIDS virus.

The process involves combining a donated blood sample with a dye and exposing the mixture to a high intensity, red-filtered light source, according to Alain Marengo-Rowe, director of special hematology and blood bank at Baylor University Medical Center and a member of the pioneering research team.

The exposure of the dye-suffused blood sample to the light creates a chemical reaction that kills enveloped viruses such as herpes simplex without harming blood cells and also is expected to be effective on other infectious agents including measles and the AIDS virus.

The technique has been tested on the Herpes Simplex 1 virus in human blood and been found effective. Experiments with other viruses, including AIDS and measles, have been conducted in tissue cultures and a liquid environment similar to blood.



## "20-year dinner" honors Joe Cobb

Joe Cobb, pictured center, was honored for 20 years of service to the Baptist Student Union at Northeast Mississippi Community College at Booneville on Dec. 14, at the Baptist Student Center. Known affectionately around the B.S.U. as "BJ," for Bro. Joe, he became director of the BSU at Northeast on Oct. 10, 1967.

The recognition dinner at 5 p.m. was followed by testimonials by former students, Advisory Board members, college president Joe Childers, Jerry Merriman. The service was attended by nearly 150 friends, relatives, and supporters. Pictured, with Bro. Joe, presenting him with a plaque of appreciation and a monetary gift from the churches of the five-county area are, G. Wiley Gann, left, pastor of First Church, Potts Camp, and Chuck Hampton, right, pastor of Gaston Church, Booneville.

## Sardis Lake begins WMU, reaches goal

Sardis Lake Church, Sardis, formed a Woman's Missionary Union organization in October which promoted the church's largest ever Lot-tie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions.

The WMU set a goal of \$1,000 and watched a promotional thermometer which was prepared by layman Paul Johnson rise as the gifts came in. As Christmas approached and the cool weather arrived, the thermometer kept rising and the goal was exceeded by \$81.

Pastor Jack Demoney reports that the WMU is only one of a number of new units begun in the church as a result of the Bold New Growth emphasis in Mississippi.

## Staff Changes

Allen H. Stephens has accepted the call as pastor of First Church, Richland, effective Feb. 15. Stephens goes from First Church, Jacksonville Beach, Fla. where he had served since 1985.

He previously pastored Braxton Church (1966-1970); Bay Vista Church, Biloxi (1970-1977); and First Church of Ferriday, La. (1978-1985).

Stephens is a graduate of Mississippi College and received the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1969. He was selected as an Outstanding Young Man of America in 1973.



Stephens



SATELLITE NETWORK, INC.

Effective January 25, 1988

CT.	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	Joy of Music Gloria	Sgt. Preston Bill Cosby Show	Adventures of The Lone Ranger 26 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Family Foundations Sunday School Lesson
6	The Life of a Woman's Hospital	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Day and Night Gospel of the Week
7	First Love Wendell Estep Changed Lives	Prime Time Live Sunshine Factory	Profiles of Sunshine Factory	Word of Life Sunshine Factory	Praise Song Sunshine Factory	Catch the Spirit Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory Set Region of the Week
8	ACTS Methodist Hour	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lasse	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lasse	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lasse	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lasse	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lasse	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
9	Come Alive Nelson Price	One In The Spirit Sgt. Preston	Catch the Spirit Adventures of The Lone Ranger	This is Life Come Alive Nelson Price	Joy of Life Perry Sanders In Concert	Christian Lifestyle Magazine Great Churches of America (I)	Popcorn Theater
10	Catch the Spirit FBC, Richmond	Bill Cosby Our World	26 Men What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	26 Men
11	Great Churches of America (I)	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Jimmy Houston Outdoors Magazine
12	The Baptist Hour	Prime Time Live Ego Theatre	Profiles of Ego Theatre	Word of Life Ego Theatre	Praise Song Ego Theatre	Catch the Spirit Ego Theatre	Plant Groom David Wade
1	Sunday Selection	"	"	"	"	"	Family Foundations Sunday School Lesson
2	Profiles	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Day and Night Gospel of the Week
3	Love Worth Finding Adrian Rogers	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory Set Region of the Week
4	Joy of Music Opie in the Spirit	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lasse	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lasse	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lasse	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lasse	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lasse	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
5	Making Life Count Arthur Calandro The Life	Adventures of The Lone Ranger 26 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Sgt. Preston Bill Cosby Show	Popcorn Theater
6	Insight: ACTS Methodist Hour	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	Country Crossroads
7	Gloria	Profiles	Word of Life	Praise Song	Catch the Spirit	Prime Time	In Concert
8	The Baptist Hour	Joy of Music Truth Alive Ron Herrnd	Catch the Spirit Joy of Life Perry Sanders	Four Times Robert White	Invitation to Life	Strength for Life Ken Hemphill	Great Churches of America (I)
9	Richard Jackson	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Family Foundations Sunday School Lesson
10	Joy of Music Gloria	Ego Theatre	Ego Theatre	The Baptist Hour	Ego Theatre	Ego Theatre	Day and Night Gospel of the Week
11	The Life Selection	Adventures of The Lone Ranger	Great Churches of America (I)	The Life In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Sgt. Preston Bill Cosby Show	Sunshine Factory Set Region of the Week
12	"	26 Men	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
1	Profiles	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Popcorn Theater
2	ACTS Methodist Hour	Profiles	Word of Life COPE	Praise Song COPE	Catch the Spirit COPE	Prime Time COPE	26 Men
3	Gloria	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Jimmy Houston Outdoors Magazine
4	Sunday Selection	Ego Theatre	Ego Theatre	Ego Theatre	Ego Theatre	Ego Theatre	Plant Groom David Wade

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## Just for the Record



**Jim Futral**, president of Mississippi Baptist Convention, was guest speaker for chapel services on the Clarke College campus, Jan. 20. Futral attended Clarke College 1963-65. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary.

Futral has pastored a number of churches in Mississippi, Fort Worth, Texas, and is presently serving as pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

Pictured with Futral are, from left, J. B. Costilow, BSU director at Clarke College, Charles Melton, Newton County director of missions and professor of religious education at Clarke, and James Read, dean.



**Magees Creek Church, Walthall County**, recently held a dedication service for the construction of its new sanctuary. Members of the building committee, pictured, are Dewitt Bennett, Nelouise Rimes, and Bennie Holmes. John Purvis is pastor.

**Slayden Church, Marshall Association**, set a goal of \$3,025 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which was an increase of 10 percent over last year's goal. They passed this goal for a total of \$4,312, nearly 15 percent increase. They also budget 26 percent of their offerings for the Cooperative Program monthly. The members and leaders of the children's choir (ages 4-10) participated in a rewarding mission action project. They visited Heritage Manor (Care Inn) in Holly Springs and walked the halls singing Christmas carols and distributing a brightly wrapped gift to each of the 120 residents. Gifts included footies, handkerchiefs, socks, and toilet articles such as lotion, bath powder, after shave. "This experience in giving lifted the spirits of everyone involved and plans were made immediately to repeat the project next Christmas," says Faye V. Sanders, WMU director.

**First Church, Cleveland**, will host a Doctrinal Study Emphasis, Feb. 14-17. Special guest will be Herschel H. Hobbs, retired Oklahoma pastor and former SBC president. Worship times will be 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday; noon and 7 p.m., Mon.-Wed.

**Simpson Baptist Association** held an Open House Sunday, Jan. 31 in recognition of 10 years of service by Mr. and Mrs. H. Glen Schilling, director of missions and secretary and in recognition of the associational program. More than 250 people attended. A book of letters from churches and individuals expressing appreciation to the Schillings was presented by Mrs. Curlane Smith, associational Baptist Women's director who coordinated the occasion.

The WMU of New Bethlehem Church, Mendenhall, recently passed out cakes and goodies to the shut-in members of their church.

New Bethlehem Church surpassed its goal for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of \$500 by receiving \$570. Jimmy Sellers is pastor.

**Christmas at Trinity Church, Vicksburg**, was highlighted by its first annual Singing Christmas Tree, which was designed, constructed, and decorated by members of the church. The sanctuary choir presented David Clydesdale's "Christmas Tapestry." Trinity's minister of music is Jamie Meaders.

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## Names in the News

**Johnny S. Sherrill**, 57, is available for pastor, supply, and interim pastor. He is a former principal of schools

and was pastor of Bethel Church, Monroe County, and Little Brown Church, Prentiss County, for nine years. Sherrill is presently a member of Grace Memorial Church, Lee County, Joe Holcomb, pastor. His wife, Eunice, helps with the music program.

Sherrill may be contacted at P. O. Box 6, Marietta, MS 38856, or phone 728-9763 or 842-4002.

**NEW YORK, NY** — The senior envoy of the world's Bible Societies, who dedicated his life to Christian service while a prisoner of war in Russia, has accepted an invitation to address the 172nd annual meeting in NYC on May 12 of the American Bible Society. For Ulrich Fick, general secretary of the United Bible Societies, the global partnership which ABS helped found just after World War II, the meeting will be one among a number of farewells. He is to retire at the end of 1988 after almost 17 years in the post.



**James W. Beasley**, minister of music, at First Church, Crystal Springs, was honored Sunday, Jan. 17, on the occasion of his 15th anniversary.



In recognition of his service to his Lord, his church, and community, he was presented a plaque and monetary love offering during the morning worship service.

A reception in the fellowship hall was held after the evening service. During this time, he was accorded special recognition by some of his former college classmates, co-workers, and friends.

**Beulah Church, Simpson County**, ordained three new deacons on Jan. 3. They are, left to right, Randy Sullivan, Ivan Colson, and William McGee. G. W. Smith is pastor.

**Mrs. Alma Pittman**, 83, of Winona, died at her home on Jan. 21, 1988. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Winona.

Memorial services were conducted from First Church, Winona on Saturday, Jan. 23. Jerry Mixon, pastor, preached. Burial was in Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery.

Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. Velma Estell Hull of Amarillo, Texas, and Mrs. Ruby Forquette of Kerrville, Texas; and two brothers, Garland Lowery of Winona and Raymond Lowery of Kansas City, Kan.

**Robert Phillips** is pastor of Union Grove Church, Clarence, Mo. A native of Quitman County, Miss., Phillips is a former pastor of West Drew Church, Drew. He is a senior at Hannibal-LaGrange College.

## Staff Changes

**Williamsville Church, Kosciusko**, has called **William E. (Bill) Salley II**, as minister of music and youth. Salley



goes from Drew Church, Drew. He is a graduate of Delta State University and has previously served churches in the Atlanta Association, as well as Pickens Church, Pickens, and Providence Church, Cleveland. He and his wife, Fran, have a son, Joshua.

**Jack Price** has accepted the pastorate of First Church, Fairhaven. He was formerly pastor in Alcorn County, at Holly Church. He will begin his new ministry on Feb. 15.

## Revival Dates

**Hillcrest, 3102 Monticello, Jackson**: Feb. 14-17; services, Sunday morning, 10:45 a.m.; 7 p.m. each evening; Moody Adams, evangelist, Baker, La., will be speaking on timely topics; Maurice Clayton, pastor.

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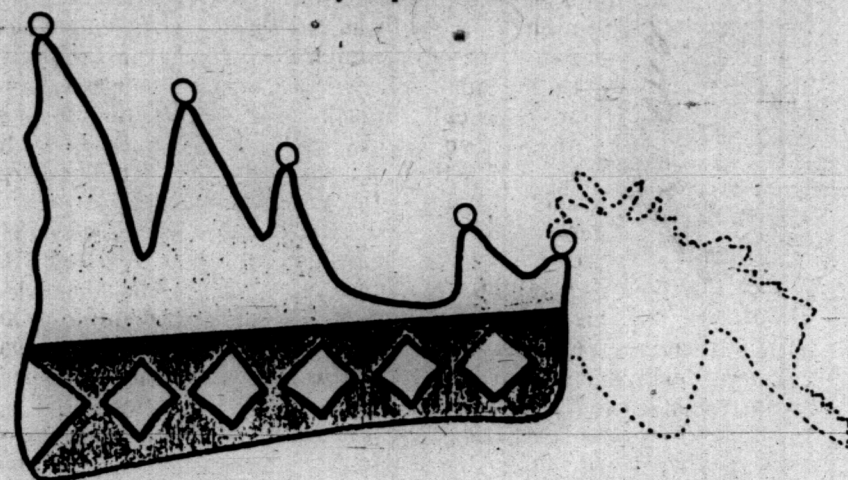
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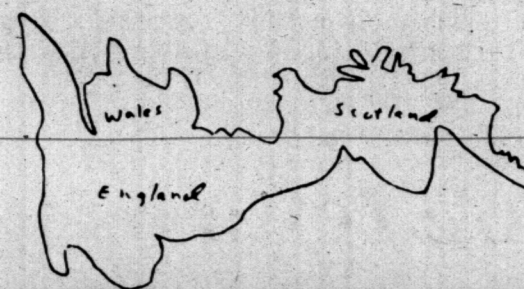
# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## GEOGRAFUN: (For Young Readers) Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph C. Peterson



The map of England, Scotland, and Wales (turned sideways) looks like a king's crown. Color the crown.



### Pen Pal Club

Anyone, ages 6 through 12, who wishes to meet a Pen Pal through the Baptist Record may do that by sending name, address, age, and name of church. Names will be listed monthly on the Children's Page.



The nursery department of Calvary Church, Greenwood, held a "Birthday Party for Jesus." The children are shown blowing out the candles of the birthday cake after which they sang "Happy Birthday," made snowmen, and listened to the Christmas story. Pictured left to right are Brent Morgan, David Cook, Joe Reid Corley, Emily Holly, Sarah Ann Jordan, Mrs. John Holly, and Amanda Barefoot. The nursery director is Mrs. Billy Gardner. Also assisting that day was John Holly.

## Missionary News

**Durwood and Ann Broughton**, missionaries to the Ivory Coast since 1984, have resigned from missionary service. The Foreign Mission Board approved their resignation at its December meeting. Stationed in Bouake, Ivory Coast, he was a general evangelists and she was a church and home worker. He is a native of Rocky Mount, N.C., and she is the former Ann Green of Vancleave, Miss. They may be addressed at 202 Northbrook Dr., Wilmington, N.C. 28405.

**Hugh and Debbie Redmon**, missionaries to Venezuela, are the parents of Larry Alan, born Jan. 1. Currently in the States on furlough, they may be addressed at 717 N. Hughes St., Little Rock, Ark. 72205. Son of Southern Baptist missionaries in Costa Rica, he was born in Jackson, Miss., and considers San Jose, Costa Rica, his hometown. Daughter of missionaries to the Ivory Coast, she was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and considers Abidjan, Ivory Coast, her hometown.

**Paul and Betty Roaten**, missionaries to Uruguay, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Casilla 14052, Montevideo, Uruguay). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Tupelo and grew up in Houlika. She is the former Betty Marbury of Brownsville, Tenn.

**Lloyd Lunceford**, missionary to Taiwan, has arrived on the field to begin his first term of service (address: P. O. Box 427, Taipei 10099, Taiwan ROC). A native of Clarksdale, Miss., he was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1987.

**Robert and Betty Gabriel**, missionary associates to Brazil, have completed language study and arrived on their field of service (address: Rua Senador Simonsen, 42/101, Jardim Botânico, 22.461 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil). He was born in Meridian, Miss. The former Betty West, she was born in Columbia, Tenn.

**Robert and Donna Burris**, missionaries to Taiwan, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Fu Hsing 1st Rd., #61-2, Kaohsiung 80013, Taiwan ROC). He is a native of Dallas, Texas. The former Donna Cope, she was born in Newton, Miss.

### Ministers at Clarke conduct revival

The ministerial association of Clarke College conducted a student-led campus-wide revival Jan. 25-26, and 28. Speakers and singers were chosen from the Music Association and the Music Department. On Thursday night, more than 90 students, faculty, and staff, attended the service. Randy Bonner brought an evangelistic message.

When the invitation was given, more than 35 decisions were made, including 11 professions of faith. People were praying and counseling during the entire invitation.

The association is planning a follow-up with the one-on-one approach. Another revival is planned for March 28, 29, and 31.

## Rumanian story ends well

**ORADEA, ROMANIA** — The 2,000-members of the Second Baptist Church here are walking through mud to get to church these days. The building was saved from being torn down in 1982 because of wide-spread pressure inside and outside of Rumania. City planners had charted the entire area for total reconstruction with high-rise apartment buildings. After several attempts by the church to alter the housing development plans or at least to enlarge its allotment of space, city authorities finally allowed the church to remain in its old location.

All surrounding buildings have now been levelled and construction has begun on the new buildings, leaving the church in a sea of mud. "It would be difficult to think of any other place in Europe where an old fashioned building like the Baptist Church in Oradea would be permitted to stay in the midst of modern buildings like the ones being built in the area," said Knud Wumpelmann, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation. "Nevertheless, the church now has the permission to stay there and will have only to remodel a bit so the building will fit in with the surrounding architecture.

Therefore, the case of Oradea-Second Baptist Church, which many feared might end in a threat to its survival, instead has had a positive and unexpected ending. "What a marvelous opportunity the Oradea church will now have to reach the people in the new apartments all around it," said Wumpelmann.

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# Deciding life's direction: "Follow me"

By Jimmy G. McGee  
Matthew 16:13-26

The "Son of Man" is the title by which Jesus called himself. Likely it was Jesus' way of identifying with all mankind and of presenting himself as the ideal man. No one else ever called him by this designation. Always it is what Jesus calls himself.

After two years of ministry, it is time for Jesus to set his face toward Jerusalem to die on the cross as God's means of redemption. Ready or not, his disciples must grasp the full significance of Jesus' person and mission.

So Jesus takes an opinion poll of his disciples. "Who do men say that I, the Son of man, am?" They quickly remembered aloud the impressions they've heard. "John the Baptist" — Herod, who had beheaded John, was afraid he had returned to life in Jesus. "Elijah" — Malachi prophesied (3:1; 4:5-6) that Elijah would reappear just before the coming of Messiah. "Jeremiah or one of the prophets." The opinions of others placed Jesus close to the Messiah, suggesting their expectancy of his soon coming, but all were reluctant to acknowledge him as God's son. The opinion of

## UNIFORM

others is valuable to the disciples' understanding, both of the subject matter and the opinion maker. However, it is essential that a disciple develop a firm conviction for himself.

Jesus wants to know and the disciples need to hear themselves say it out loud. "Who do you say that I am?" Peter speaks firmly: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." The one the opinion makers expect soon is already here in Jesus!

Jesus commends Peter for his insight and his receptivity to God's Holy Spirit. "Blessed are you" — this acknowledgment is not the result of human intuition and reason, it is the illumination and revelation of the Holy Spirit. The identity of Jesus is fixed permanently in the disciples' mind and heart.

With Peter's confession and on faith's foundation, Jesus institutes his church — the body of Christ, the local community of believers. Whenever and wherever one today confesses that Jesus is the Christ, there is the church alive. His church comes into full manifestation following Jesus' ascension and is his agency for expressing and expanding the kingdom until Jesus comes again. Kingdom citizens today are church faithful.

Jesus builds the church and guarantees its

victory over Satan and evil. "The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." All the power of Satan cannot destroy the church of the living Lord. When the church takes the offensive in the authority of the Spirit, the fortress of evil will crumble.

The church has the keys of the kingdom, capable of opening and closing the way to God. Our mission is to open the way for whosoever and for as many as possible. God is not willing that any should perish! Our use of the key is an awesome responsibility for which all of us will give account. The church is to confirm on earth those people who accept or reject the gospel.

From that time Jesus began to show to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again on the third day. This is the first of several disclosures of Jesus that the way of death was God's will for his life.

Just as quickly as Peter had been the Holy Spirit's vessel to declare Jesus as the Christ, he now becomes Satan's vessel to impetuously rebuke and discourage Jesus' doing God's will. How easy and often well meaning but carnal (minding the things of men) saints put a stumbling block and hindrance in the way of Jesus today!

The seriousness of discipleship is plain. Do

you still want to follow Jesus? If so, three actions are essential.

First, "let him deny himself." True discipleship surrenders the will to Jesus' way. This denial is not simply to deny ourselves something we greatly enjoy; it is to put to death our selfish and human way.

Second, "take up his cross." Having divested oneself of one's selfish agenda in life, the disciple must take up deliberately and with enthusiasm his cross. "His cross" must be understood as God's will in lifestyle. It is not a dread disease or a nagging spouse. It is the will of God for us to death.

Third, "Follow me." The disciple must follow Jesus. Good fellowship is essential if the church is to evangelize the world.

With the Christian lifestyle set forth, we are tempted still to save (secure) ourselves by holding back and by protecting ourselves. In faith we are to turn loose in the will of God for the glory of God.

Two unanswered but provocative questions conclude the emphasis of following Jesus. The desired end is the security of the soul. Jesus is coming again to reward the faithful. So "what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" Or "What will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Jimmy McGee is pastor, First, Grenada.

# Jacob returns to Bethel, claims his new name

By Gayle Alexander  
Genesis 33:18 to 36:43

The providence and chastisement of God went on and on with Jacob. He had left Esau, crossed the Jordan River and settled in Shechem. Shechem has spiritual significance in the history of the patriarchs. Shechem was where Abraham had encountered God when he first entered into the land of promise.

And he erected there an altar and called it El-elohe-Israel (33:20). This is a combination of the name of God, "El-elohe," along with Israel's own name. Jacob used the name El, which means power, because it was God's power that had brought him into the land. He included his own name to indicate he was claiming that new relationship which he had established with God. Jacob was giving evidence of the fact that he had been restored to a right relationship to God. Jacob was now in the promised land and God was ready to proceed with the fulfillment of the covenant relationship through him. Apparent-

## BIBLE BOOK

ly, Jacob was coming to a much greater understanding of God. At long last, he could speak of God as his own God. He was claiming his new name.

The revenge on the men of Shechem (34:1-31) is illustrative of the chastisement of God continuing in Jacob's life. At Shechem, Jacob settled among people who did not share his religious heritage and faith. Though Jacob may have made progress in his own relationship with God, apparently he did not lead his family in the development of their faith. This story of revenge on the sons of Hamor is a tragic blight on the family of Jacob.

"God said to Jacob, 'Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there'" (35:1). Jacob was to go back and to renew vows he had made earlier. Jacob seemed ever so slow to follow the leadership of God for the fulfillment of his life's purpose. Problems and pressure seemed to be the only things that moved him on his way. The dangerous situation at Shechem caused Jacob to be sensitive to the divine command to go. He had probably been back in the land of Canaan

for some ten years and he should have gone immediately to Bethel, since he had promised God that he would go back there and build an altar. Finally, by another conflict, God moved him and told him to dwell at Bethel. Deep spiritual experiences are not for a moment's time. However, Jacob did not remain very long at Bethel.

At Bethel, God gave Jacob three commands: "Put away the strange gods . . . be clean . . . change your garments" (35:2). These three commands parallel the experiences of all Christians. Idolatry is the fountainhead of total spiritual disintegration. The command to be clean means to be purified. The command to change your garments is tantamount to putting off the old and putting on the new. The strange gods and the earrings, which were symbols of idolatry, most of which came from the people of Shechem, were buried under an oak.

"The 'terror' of verse 5 was planned violence on the part of the people of Shechem against Jacob and his family, but a violence which God restrained so that they were able to make their pilgrimage from Shechem to Bethel without incident. Jacob arrived at Luz which was the old local name for Bethel. At Bethel, God reconfirmed his new name, Israel. Also,

God reconfirmed the covenant. His new name Israel would be a constant reminder of his new character and of his new relationship to God. He was heir of the promises of Abraham because the covenant was still in full force. Here Jacob built another altar and called this one El-Bethel, which means, God, the house of God. The previous name Bethel focused on the place. Here his focus was on God and his relationship with God.

The struggles and troubles of Jacob were not over. Jacob was in a hurry to leave Bethel for Bethlehem where he would be reunited with his father. Beloved Rachel was ready to be delivered of a child. She birthed a son and named him Benoni, which means son of my sorrow. Rachel died on journey in childbirth. Jacob changed the son's name to Benjamin, which means son of my right hand, indicating that the son was a blessing. Jacob was reunited with his father for a short time and then Isaac died. Further problems came with Jacob's son, one of whom committed incest.

When a man fails in promptly responding to the will of God, and fails in leading his family in spiritual development, quite often problems will develop in that person's life.

Gayle Alexander is pastor, First, Tupelo.

# Don't destroy the dignity of life: Sixth commandment

By M. Dean Register

People magazine conducted a public opinion poll on the topic of "sin" and discovered that the sixth commandment was the easiest for

respondents to keep. "Thou shalt not kill" may pose no difficulty for many, but it is far more demanding than public opinion generally allows. In the Hebrew Bible the sixth commandment occurs as two words, "lo ratsach," and literally means "not shall you murder." "Ratsach" has been translated as kill, but it consistently means "murder" in the Old Testament.

Some individuals claim that the command forbids the death of anything. A hard-line, legalistic interpretation carried to the extreme would prohibit the killing of a rabid dog or insects carrying malaria. Albert Schweitzer built one of the great mission hospitals in Lam-

## LIFE AND WORK

hospital compound no one was permitted to kill so much as a fly or a mosquito. Yet the gifted doctor surely knew that his objective was to save human life by the act of killing living organisms and microbiological germs that spread disease. Obviously, a myopic interpretation of the sixth commandment is not the intent of the Scripture.

The positive thrust of "Thou shalt not kill" is the exaltation of the sanctity and dignity of life. God made humanity in his own image. That's why life is so sacred. The sacredness of life affects at least four contemporary issues. First, it affects abortion. Neither the Old Testament nor the New Testament supports abortion. The Scriptures affirm that life is in the womb and life is not a piece of tissue to be discarded. Jeremiah 1:4-5 says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you

horror of abortion is not to bomb a clinic, but to evangelize a nation through the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

A second issue this commandment affects is suicide. As believers, we must send a message of love to struggling people that says, "Thou shalt not kill — thyself." Why? Because there is hope and new life through Christ. Last year more than 5,000 teenagers were so frustrated with life that they committed suicide. I wonder how many could have been saved if somewhere in their psyche they had heard the truth of their worth and dignity in the image of God.

The third and fourth issues involve war and capital punishment. Israel certainly participated in a few wars and Deuteronomy 20 gives a set of rules for war. Furthermore, Exodus 21:12 contends that murderers were to face capital punishment. Sincere Christians line up on opposite sides of the penal issue, but all seem to agree that when the law fails to protect the rights of innocent persons, then respect for the law itself dies and its purpose is

nullified.

At the center of the issues we discover an attitude, a basic disposition about life and death and human relationships. Jesus took the sixth commandment and applied it broadly so that murder involved an attitude as well as an action (Matt. 5:21-22). Anger and hatred are twin fuses that ignite an act of murder. Persons are murdered by words that stab as well as knives that cut! As believers we have the responsibility of demonstrating respect, courtesy, and agape love to every person (Matt. 5:43-48).

A Christ-like attitude includes love for our enemies and prayer for those who persecute us. The best way we can reverence life is to know the Giver of Life and appropriate his love for ourselves and others by our words and deeds. The smug confidence that appears in a public opinion poll disappears under the scorching light of truth, especially the truth that says "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer" (I Jn. 3:15).

M. Dean Register is pastor, First, Gulfport.



# Baptist Record

## Large church is result of early church starter

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The year was 1846. The letter writer was home missionary William Tryon.

He penned this report to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board that day: "The members of our little church have made arrangements for preaching in a room which is occupied as a court room."

Tryon, one of the first six missionaries sent out by the Home Mission Board, had been assigned to the Texas frontier.

That "little church" is now known as the First Baptist Church of Houston.

Tryon was typical of the early home missionaries who were instructed to "strengthen churches which exist, and plant others in the waste places of the country."

In those early years, the "waste places" were Florida, Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

As the first home missionaries went about their work, their struggles were many.

Wrote Noah Haggard, missionary in Bibb County, Alabama: "There were many who seldom appear at a place of worship. Not a few spend the Sabbath hunting, fishing, shooting at a mark . . . But I think I see the dawn of a better day . . . The people have determined to build a house of wor-



ship, which they will commence in a few days."

Two years later, Haggard's quarterly report to the Home Mission Board included this news: "Should the good work continue, and the present prospects so indicate, I shall be able to constitute two churches during the year."

Although the board has always been involved in sending missionaries to start churches, it was not until 1942, when California was accepted into the Southern Baptist Convention, that the board began to "turn loose on the whole country," said Wendell Belew, associate vice president for missions at the board.

The struggle and joy of new work continues today in the more than 350 people and assigned to church start-

ing work by the Home Mission Board, Belew said.

One such church starter is Jon Gilbert, pastor of Woodridge Baptist Fellowship, Woodridge, Ill. Gilbert, who receives field pastoral aid from the board, came in 1984 to DuPage County, the fastest growing area outside the Sun Belt.

"The work has been small and slow, but it was a good start," he said. "We had seven (members) in the beginning. Now we have about 40 members."

The mission meets in a local school, paying only for the services of the school custodian. "The toughest problem is mobility. Families average about two years here, then they are transferred once more by their companies," he said.

It is also difficult trying to start a church from scratch, he said. "Moving into a community where you don't know anyone and no one knows you makes it hard to build a circle of friends," Gilbert said.

From 5,403 Southern Baptist churches in 1870 in the United States to a current total of 37,116 church starting has certainly made a difference. But, as the Home Mission Board evangelism section staff points out, there are still 168 million Americans unsaved.

Sherri Brown writes for WMU, SBC.



SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76150

Are all Christians hypocrites?

### QUESTION

I was raised in a very Christian home, and I tried to do everything my parents expected of me. But several months ago, I found out something really awful about my father, and now I don't have any trust or respect for him anymore. What's worse, I feel like I'm losing my faith. Are all Christians such hypocrites? How can I get over this disappointment — and my own spiritual crisis?

### ANSWER

Trust is a crucial factor in any relationship — both in our human relationships and in our fellowship with God. When one partner in a relationship does not live up to expectations, disappointment is the result. But notice that disillusionment is based on illusion. If our expectations are unreasonable, we are setting ourselves up for disappointment.

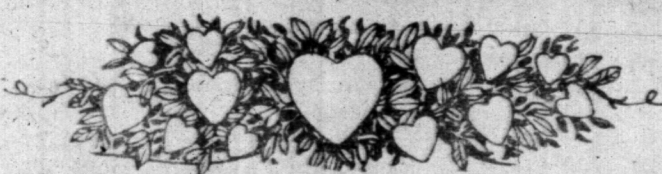
So you may need to check out this matter of illusions on three different levels. First, your expectations of your father — you set him up on a pretty high pedestal and it was painful to discover that he is human after all. But this kind of

hero worship is pretty common for children, especially daughters. Consider the possibility that you might have gone through a period of reevaluation of your father as a person, even if you had not found out about his wrong action.

Second, check your expectations of yourself. Is it possible that you were basically a second hand Christian? Maybe you were more concerned with following your parents' wishes than establishing your own personal relationship with God. In this sense, your expectations of yourself may be too low. You may need to start taking responsibility for your own faith, and not just ride your parents' coattails.

Finally, think about your concept of God. What do you expect of him? Is he a kind of magician who swoops in and makes everything all right? Or is he a judge who watches you and tries to catch you doing something wrong? Can you come to think of him as a loving friend who wants to guide you and comfort you through the rough experiences of life? If so, then you may be able to find the compassion to forgive your father. It is when we are conscious of God's mercy toward us that we become more understanding toward others.

## SCRAPBOOK



"The game of life is a game of boomerangs. Our thoughts, deeds and words return to us sooner or later with astounding accuracy."

— FLORENCE SCOVEL SHINN

### Always

I will always love you  
no matter if the end comes today.  
No matter if I never get to see you smile  
or hear the words you have to say.

I will always, always love you.  
My heart has footprints where you tread.  
I hear my heart say every day  
"Always," 'til I am dead.

Then when the time does come some day  
for me to leave this world,

I will whisper "always"  
and smile as I leave this earth.

For memories I will take with me  
always 'til I am home,  
and I will face God once again  
underneath his golden dome.

I know he will look at me  
and shake his head and say,  
"How long, Lana, have you loved this man?"  
and I will answer, "Always."

—Lana Murphy Jagers  
Tupelo

### To Grace

There's another new widow down the road  
stalwart as a mother lode.  
A little boy hands her a Valentine,  
saying, "Grandma, hey, will you be mine?"  
"Of course, I'll be your Valentine."

But a bird is twirping on a limb  
of the mossy pecan tree remembering him  
whose hand she held some forty years  
on the ancient farm that outgrew tears,  
where the Bogue Chitto River ambles along  
reminding one of heaven's song.

—Violet Tackett, McComb

### To hubby of 46 years

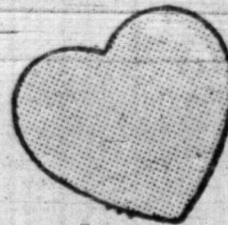
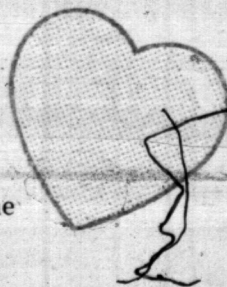
When all my joints give way to pain,  
And I do nothing but complain;  
When I can't make your bed be mine,  
Will I still be your Valentine?

When these few hairs are stony gray,  
And all my teeth have passed away;

And when the scales read 209,  
Will I still be your Valentine?

When I'm beyond a second look,  
And I no longer even cook,  
The question of this Valentine  
Is: Will you still, oh, please, BE MINE?

—Maxine E. McAdory Jackson



NOTE: The BAPTIST RECORD cannot accept any new poems before some time in 1989. This is to give time and space to use the large supply of poems already on hand. Anyone who submits a poem at any time is requested to enclose a stamped, addressed envelope for reply or return.

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